

For Record.

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Page 1

BULLETIN

No. 176

July, 1973.

Registered at G.P.O. Hobart, for transmission by post
as a periodical, Category B.
Club's Address - G.P.O. Box 68A, Hobart, 7001.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday,
July 19th, at 7.45.p.m.

SPEAKER

Mr. C. P. Gabel, State Fire Control Officer.

SUBJECT

The Needs, Aims and Implementation of hazard
reduction in Tasmania.

The address will be supported by many colour
slides, and questions will be invited at the
conclusion of his talk.

OUTING

Date: Saturday, July 21st.

Meet: at Myers, Liverpool Street, to catch
the 10.a.m. Warrane Bus, getting off at
the Roundabout, Cambridge Rd.

Destination: the Quarry Area.

Leader: M.L.Westbrook.

This is expected to be an easy, pottery type
of outing (if the weather is kind to us). If
each person brings a bottle of water we could
boil the billy and cook a chop.(etc).

..See the wonderful patches of 'Trim Greenhood'
orchids.(*Pterostylis concinna*); "arth Stars;
Hear (and perhaps see) Green Rosellas, Gold-
finches, Thornbills, yellowtipped pardalote,
whistlers, fantails, and others.

.. ..find bright yellow fungi in the bush and
lichens on the quarry rocks....

This area is a 'Reserve' so no plant material
or soil must be taken away.

LIBRARY

We now own "Insects of the World" and it has
already been borrowed by one of our members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1973

After having put "reminders" on many of last month's "BULLETINS", we have been pleased to receive quite a number of outstanding subscriptions.

However, not all have responded.

If you are still hovering on the brink, may I urge you to write yourself a reminder note in your shopping list, or its equivalent, and get your cheque, postal note, or change ready for our next meeting.... and if you don't expect to be there, post your sub to

The Treasurer,
G.P.O. Box 68A

Hobart. 7001 without delay so that we can report their receipt to the next Committee Meeting.

THANKYOU !

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:-

The next Committee Meeting was to be held on August 22nd. However, as I will be out of the State on that date it is now proposed to hold the meeting on Wednesday, August 8th - 8.p.m. 6 Richardson Ave.

If any of you can not come that date, will you please let me know?

M.L.WESTBROOK.

The Whales. talk

After our most interesting and informative ^{on whales} last meeting by Dr. Guiler, you will be sorry to hear that the International Whaling Commission has turned down the proposed ten-year moratorium on the hunting of whales. However we were pleased to see that the moratorium was supported this time by Australia. (Last time Australia abstained from voting.)

LAST OUTING

After having been warned that the outing to Mt. Faulkner could involve some "scrub-bashing", seven hardy males and three (hardy?) females turned up. The day was not kind. to say the least!

However the trip was ON - and we were all dressed for the occasion. The wind was cold, the rain came occasionally, also snowflakes - but you will be pleased to hear that the Senecio brunonus was found on the slopes of the mountain, fairly high up - so now we know three places where it grows:-

Mt. Wellington, Mt. Dromedary and Mt. Faulkner.

This tree Senecio is endemic to Tasmania.

GEELONG FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

One of their news-sheets came to our hands the other day. They were planning a trip - private cars and one bus, if bookings were made. Interesting to see their fares... Adult members, \$3. Adult non-members, \$4. Junior members, 50c, Junior non-members \$1.00 ... this trip was expected to be about 164 miles in all. They divided their trip into four stages - with the mileage for each stage, and the things that they would expect to see in each area.

They, too, have their conservation matters:- Destruction and burning of riverside vegetation; information on areas of dwarf Melaleuca so that they should not be disturbed unnecessarily; part of a National Park burned out;

W.V.F.N.C.A... Sixteen Clubs represented at a meeting at Geelong. 35 Cars visited the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve. On Saturday night, after delegates' meeting, the Conference was opened - There is now a State-wide body of Field Naturalists Clubs. And there was an excursion on the Sunday to Pt. Addis.

We, in Tasmania, have found our own Federation a useful body so we hope that the Victorian body will prove to be a strong force in the conservation area.

MARIA ISLAND

Situated off the East Coast of Tasmania near Orford, Maria Island was discovered and named by Abel Tasman in 1642. Separated from the mainland by a channel varying in width from four to eight miles, its appearance is striking and picturesque. Lofty mountains end on the east side in steep cliffs poised dramatically over the water, and slope on the west to sandy beaches. The whole affords a variety and diversity of scenery.

The Island originally found favour with the Aborigines for its food and canoe-materials. European explorers made contact with these natives on the island as early as 1770. During the early 1800's the Island was extensively explored, and much was learned of the natives from these visits.

In 1825, under direction of Governor Arthur the northern tip of Maria Island was chosen as an alternative to the already overcrowded convict settlement at Macquarie Harbour. Lieut. Peter Murdoch was sent with a detachment of guards and fifty convicts to form a settlement at Darlington.

The Commissariat Store, which was built in this year, still stands by the water's edge. This stone building is the oldest on the Island. The only other remaining building of this era is the penitentiary, which housed approximately 300 convicts. The jetty, it is thought, was also constructed in this period.

The hours were long and tedious for the men, who produced a large quantity of a wide variety of goods. Many small industries were established, and large areas of land were cultivated. Escapes were numerous, the convicts building canoes similar to those constructed by the aborigines.

(More information to come- M.L.W.)